

#4

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Amend B  
T.D.  
10/24/01

Applicants: H. Kutsumi et al. : Art Unit: 2122  
Serial No.: 09/851,791 : Examiner:  
Filed: May 9, 2001 :  
FOR: INFORMATION RECOMMENDATION :  
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION  
RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

RECEIVED  
OCT 19 2001  
Technology Center 2100

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following newly added claims 40-44:

- 1 40. (Newly Added) In a system including a users computer accessing a  
2 remote database using a communications network, a method of obtaining a group  
3 of items from the database comprising the steps of:
- 4 (a) storing a plurality of groupings of items in the database, each  
5 grouping having (1) objective characteristics including items free-of human  
6 decisions and (2) subjective characteristics including items resulting from human  
7 decisions;
- 8 (b) assigning a numerical value for each of the objective and subjective  
9 characteristics of a respective grouping;

10/17/2001 SHINASS1 00000045 09851791

01 FC:103 90.00 OP  
02 FC:102 168.00 OP